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Department of State

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL 807

EXCISE

Saigon 11598 7-22-71

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ACTION EA-20

INFO OCT-01 NEA-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-08 L-04
NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-12 IO-16
EUR-20 AID-28 UPW-01 RSR-01 /170 W
013780

R 221100Z JUL 71
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7659
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG
USDEL FRANCE
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 1/26/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11598

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ: KY CAMPAIGN

REF: (A) [redacted] (B) [redacted]

1. SUMMARY: KY STAFFER STATES THAT PROVINCE CHIEFS ARE REFUSING TO CERTIFY ENDORSEMENTS FOR KY, REFLECTING ADMINISTRATION'S ATTEMPT TO BLOCK HIS CANDIDACY. END SUMMARY.

2. [redacted] TOLD EMBOFFS JULY 22 THAT KY PRESENTLY HAS 102 SIGNED ENDORSEMENTS FOR PROVINCIAL COUNCILLORS, OF WHICH ONLY 30 HAVE SO FAR BEEN CERTIFIED BY PROVINCE CHIEFS AND MAYORS. [redacted] BELIEVES THAT KY WILL NEED AN ADDITIONAL 10 TO 15 ENDORSEMENTS AS A MARGIN OF PROTECTION AGAINST DEFECTIONS OR LAST MINUTE INVALIDATION.

3. [redacted] INSISTED THAT PROVINCE CHIEFS HAVE DELIBERATELY BEEN AVOIDING OR OTHERWISE OBSTRUCTING VERIFICATION AS PART OF A

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PATTERN OF ACTIVITY BY THE EXECUTIVE TO PRECLUDE KY'S CANDIDACY. b-1
STATED THAT MOST OF KY'S VERIFIED ENDORSEMENTS NOW ORIGINATE ed
FROM MR I, SPECIFICALLY IN DANANG, HUE AND THUA THIEN.
WHOSE STATEMENTS ARE CONFIRMED BY OUR DANANG CONSULATE,
KY VISITED DANANG JULY 20 PERSONALLY TO REQUEST VERIFICATION BY
MAYOR KHOI OF ENDORSEMENTS BY DANANG CITY COUNCILORS.
ALSO SAID THAT THE NHA TRANG MAYOR PERSONALLY PRESSURED ONE
WOULD-BE KY SUPPORTER INTO WITHDRAWING HIS ENDORSEMENT, WHILE
PHUOC LONG PROVINCE CHIEF HAS REFUSED FOR SEVEN DAYS TO MEET
ANOTHER KY ENDORSER SEEKING VERIFICATION OF HIS SIGNATURE.
SAID MOST PROVINCE CHIEFS ARE NOW ABSENT FROM THEIR POSTS
FOR A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT THIEU IN SAIGON (APPARENTLY TRUE)
WHICH IS FURTHER DELAYING CERTIFICATION OF SIGNATURES.

4. ALSO AFFIRMED HIS CONVICTION THAT IF KY FAILS TO
QUALIFY GENERAL MINH WILL NOT CONTINUE THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE.

5. DESCRIBING KY'S ANTICIPATED PRESIDENTIAL PLATFORM,
SAID THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT WOULD CALL FOR: (A) SUBSTANTIAL
REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES; (B) POPULAR REFERENDUM TO AMEND THE
CONSTITUTION AND CONSOLIDATE INSTITUTIONS, PERHAPS ELIMINATING
THE LOWER HOUSE; (C) FORMATION OF A BROADLY BASED MOVEMENT TO
COMPETE POLITICALLY WITH THE COMMUNISTS; AND (D) OPENING A
REALISTIC AVENUE BY WHICH THE COMMUNISTS CAN PARTICIPATE
POLITICALLY IN SOUTH VIETNAMESE POLITICS, BUT NOT ADVOCATING
COALITION.

6. COMMENT: KY NOW HAS TWO WEEKS TO OBTAIN VERIFICATION OF
HIS ENDORSEMENTS; OFFICIAL FILING OF CANDIDACIES WILL
BEG. JULY 29 AND CONTINUE UNTIL AUGUST 4, 1971 (SEE SEPTEL).
CHARGE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS WORKING TO PRECLUDE
KY'S CANDIDACY COINCIDES WITH MANY CURRENT REPORTS TO THE
EFFECT THAT PROVINCE CHIEFS HAVE ACTIVELY SOUGHT MAXIMUM
NUMBER OF COUNCILOR ENDORSEMENTS FOR PRESIDENT THIEU. b-1
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